At the same time he looked completely Italian. He jumped into the carriage, obviously excited at being taken for a ride.

He had dark hair and his eyes were large, dark and very expressive. He also, unexpectedly, had two peculiarities. One was that his hair grew on his forehead into a 'widow's peak', which one usually saw only on women. Secondly, his dark eyebrows turned up at the ends, which gave him the look of a small gnome or goblin. It was an unusual distinction but rather attractive.

"Here is Enrico," the Signor said, "and he has been told he is to travel to England with a very charming lady."

Enrico held out his hand. "I . . wanta to go . . een beeg . . sheep," he said slowly, speaking in English.

"But first we have to go in a train for a long time," Luella said.

The small boy smiled. " 'Rico like beeg – train," he said. "Go verry . . verry.fast!"

"That is good, Enrico!" Signor Vecchio said. "You speak very good English."

" 'Rico verry clever," the boy answered. "I spik lot an' lot of Engleesh. N.no m.morre Italian." He stumbled a little over the words, but not very badly.

Luella thought he must have worked extremely hard to have learnt so much English so quickly. She was to find however as they drove on that he spoke rapid Italian whenever he saw something that interested him. They saw some dogs fighting which excited him and he forgot his English when there was a balloon floating overhead. Luella carefully talked to him in

English in front of the Signor. The boy seemed to understand more or less everything she said.

The hotel near the station was quite a comfortable one and the Signor ordered them tea. "You are English, Signorina," he said, "and therefore you expect to have tea at four o'clock and Enrico must expect the same."

Enrico was only too willing to gobble up the food that the Signor ordered. But he drank orangeade rather than tea.

As they ate, Luella was aware that the Signor's eyes kept darting towards the door as if he was expecting somebody. Finally, after they had been in the hotel for nearly an hour a man appeared, and he jumped hastily to his feet. They talked for a moment in the doorway, then the Signor took the newcomer to a far corner of the room, where they were out of hearing of both Luella and Enrico. They remained there for some time. Glancing in their direction, Luella was aware that he was giving the man who had just arrived some money. There appeared to be quite a lot of it.

When finally the man left, the Signor came back to the tea-table. He sat down beside Luella and said in a grave voice: "Now what I have here for you, Signorina, is of very great importance. It is a letter to the Duke telling him of Tia's death and explaining why I have sent Enrico in your charge to England."

"Do you mean you have not yet notified the Duke that you are sending him his son?"

"There has been no time," the Signor replied. "It was something I intended to do as soon as Tia died, but I was desperate as to whom I could entrust Enrico.